

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings.

1. (Currently amended) A signalling apparatus for processing signalling messages, comprising:

a signalling point;

links via which the signalling ~~apparatus~~ point is connected to ~~other signalling apparatus~~
at least a second signaling apparatus;

at least one signalling system within said signalling point that sends signalling messages to the ~~[[other]]~~ second signal apparatus or, respectively, receives signalling messages from the ~~[[other]]~~ second signalling apparatus via said links;

wherein said signalling system ~~[[that]]~~ respectively allocates a signalling network identity to said links; and

at least one of said links ~~[[that]]~~ is returned in a loop from ~~[[a]]~~ the signalling point to the signalling point as a loop link,

wherein different signalling network identities ~~[[being]]~~ are allocated to the loop link at an output and input side by the signalling system; and

wherein said loop link comprises at least one of a network tunnel and a signalling tunnel.

2. (Currently amended) A signalling apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ said signalling system, with assistance of said loop link communicates signalling messages between at least two ~~[[other]]~~ signalling systems contained in the signalling point ~~to which is respectively provided an interface.~~

3. (Previously presented) A signalling apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ said signalling system generates internal load for test purposes with assistance of said loop link.

4. (Previously presented) A signalling apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ said signalling system realizes an interworking communication with other networks with assistance of said loop link.

5. (Previously presented) A signalling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said signaling system is a signalling system according to No. 7 and allocates a same network identifier to said loop link at the output and input side.

6. (Previously presented) A method for signalling in a signalling apparatus, comprising the steps of:

allocating signalling network identities to links of a signalling apparatus by a signalling system;

allocating different signalling network identities at an output side and input side to a link as a loop link that is returned from the signalling apparatus to the same signalling apparatus in a loop.

7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of: employing said loop link by said signalling system to communicate signalling messages between two further signalling systems of the signalling apparatus having a respective interface.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of: employing said loop link by said signalling system to generate load for test purposes.

9. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of employing said loop link by said signalling to enable with other networks.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

allocating a common NI to said loop link at an output and input side by said signalling system.

11. (Currently amended) A signaling apparatus for processing signaling messages, comprising:

links via which the signaling apparatus is connected to other signaling apparatus;

at least one signaling system that either sends signaling messages to the other signaling apparatus or receives signaling messages from the other signaling apparatus via said links;
wherein said signaling system allocates a signaling network identity to at least one of said links; and
wherein said signaling system allocates different signaling network identities to ~~[[the]]~~ a loop link at an output side and input side for one of said links when said one of said links is returned in a loop to a signaling point;
wherein said loop link comprises at least one of a network tunnel and a signaling tunnel.

12. (Previously presented) A signaling apparatus, comprising:
at least one signaling point;
a first internal network comprising a first unique network identity and a first ISUP;
a second internal network comprising a second unique network identity and a second ISUP;
a first signaling link associated with said first internal network;
a second signaling link associated with said second internal network;
at least one routing table configured with at least one of said first unique network identity and said second unique network identity; and
a loop link interconnecting said first internal network and said second internal network to form at least one of a network tunnel and a signaling tunnel.

13. (Currently amended) A method for signaling in a signaling apparatus, comprising the steps of:
allocating unique point codes to each of a plurality of signaling networks interconnecting a plurality of signaling points; and
routing a signal from a first network of said plurality of signaling networks to a second network of said plurality of signaling networks using said unique point codes using at least one of a network tunnel and a signaling tunnel.

14. (New) The signalling apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a signalling system communicates signalling messages via said loop link between two signalling systems contained within the signalling apparatus.

15. (New) The signalling apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a signalling system generates internal load for test purposes with assistance of said loop link.

16. (New) The signalling apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a signalling system realizes an interworking communication with other networks with assistance of said loop link.

17. (New) The signalling apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a signalling system is a signalling system according to Signaling System 7 and allocates a same network identifier to said loop link at the output and input side.

18. (New) The signalling apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising at least a second signalling system within said signaling point.